



Boston Connects, Incorporated
Boston Empowerment Zone
2201 Washington Street

Board Minutes
October 28, 2003

Members Present: Mike Vance-*President*, Robert Kinney-*Vice President*, Gloria Coney-*Clerk*, Mike Foley- *Treasurer*, Rev. Gerald Bell, Joelee Baker Bey, Ralph Cooper, Julia Flashner, Michael Glavin, Charlotte Golar Richie, Betty Greene, George Greenidge, Joanne Hilferty, Mark Maloney, Elizabeth Miranda, John Wagner and Thomas Yee.

Members Absent: Valarie Pruitt, Frederick Umeh, Juanita Wade.

BCI Staff: Christine Araujo and Shirley Carrington

EDIC Staff: Ken Barnes

Ex-Officio: Sen. Dianne Wilkerson

Guests: Cheryl Snyder, Maryellen McCormack Task Force

Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To accept minutes of the September 30, 2003 Boston Connects, Inc. Board meeting.

By: Mrs. Greene

Second: Ms. Flashner

Recused: 0

Abstained: 0

Opposed:0

Motion: Carried

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Vance congratulated Brother Kinney on receiving the ABCD Award on October 24th. A special thanks to staff and Board of Directors who attended.

BCI's Annual Meeting will occur on January 14th, 2004. Mr. Vance urged Board members to work with staff on planning the Annual Meeting. This year BCI is developing an Annual Meeting program ad booklet. Board members were urged to help solicit ads.

Motion: To combine the November and December Board meeting and to hold the meeting on December 16, 2003.

By: Mrs. Greene

Second: Ms. Flashner

Recused: 0

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion : Carried

Mr. Vance spoke about the Ex-Offender initiative kick-off which will be held on December 4, 2003. Given the fact that the Board will not meet until December 16, 2003 and the need to start the process of providing services to the ex-offender population, Mr. Vance asked the Board to consider giving the Executive Committee the authority to authorize the Executive



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston

2201 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02119 ■ Phone 617-541-2670 ■ Fax 617-427-0747
A 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit Community Organization in Partnership with the City of Boston

Director to release a RFP for Case Management services relative to the Ex-offender Initiative. This would allow the RFP release announcement to happen simultaneously with the Ex-offender Initiative “kick-off” event. Discussion centered on whether this RFP would include an opportunity for large agencies to partner with small agencies. The suggestion was made that BCI partner with some of the state agencies to leverage some of the Governor’s new reentry initiatives. The recommendation was made that Board members read the recent article on CORI that appeared in Commonwealth Magazine.

Motion: To authorize the Executive Committee, on behalf of the BCI Board, to approve the release of a RFP for Case Management Services for Ex-Offenders.

By: Ms. Hilferty

Second: Mr. Baker-Bey

Recused: 0

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion : Carried

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. Araujo distributed an Executive Director’s report on all programs. She reminded Board members that elections would be held on Saturday, November 1, 2003 in Districts 2, 8, and 9. The candidates for District 2 are Ms. Gloria Coney and Ms. Lillie Boyd; District 8, Mr. Joelee Baker-Bey and Ms. Erika Butler; and District 9, Mr. Robert Kinney.

Ms. Araujo announced that the Annual Meeting would be held in South Boston on January 14, 2004. She asked for feedback on a venue to hold the meeting in South Boston and on whether a morning or evening meeting was preferred. Suggestions for locations included: The Boston Teachers Union, Bayside Expo, Ironworkers Hall and Children’s Museum. As a follow up to Mr. Vance’s report, Ms. Araujo distributed the cost sheet for the Annual Meeting Ad book.

Ms. Araujo reported on the Board tour of the Crosstown Center project, which was attended by several Board members. She informed Board members that the process will be starting for the hiring for permanent jobs and as with the construction jobs, BCI will co-sponsor and outreach event for Zone residents.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ex-Offender Advisory Committee

Brother Kinney gave the Ex-Offender report. He reported that there would be a “kick-off” event of the Ex-Offender Initiative on December 4th, 2003 and encouraged all Board members to attend.

B. Community Capacity Building

Mr. Baker-Bey reported that the second fundraising/grantwriting class is in session with approximately 15 participants. He further reported that the committee had met on October 15, 2003. He encouraged Board members to attend the next meeting of the Committee since this committee has been charged with working on ways to help smaller agencies win grants from Boston Connects, Inc. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 12, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. Some ideas that the committee discussed were:

- Closed/Competitive bids
- A closed procurement to organizations that attend the grantwriting course.
- A closed procurement based on operating budgets.
- Provide technical assistance grants to smaller agencies to help them develop their programs, followed by grants for service delivery.
- Leveraging/building capacity. BCI should help small organizations by raising



revenue

- Large organizations collaborating with small organizations. This type collaboration should be written into the RFP.
- Conduct a Post Bidders Conference with the non-winners and offer them incentive points for their participation.
- Advertise for readers who understand the community. Board members could assist by suggesting readers.

In the discussion as to whether BCI could conduct a “closed procurement” Mr. Barnes informed the Board that it could not conduct a non-competitive procurement but could conduct a closed procurement. Some of the ideas that emerged from the discussion included: conversations with the smaller agencies to determine ways to meet the needs of underserved populations and build capacity in smaller agencies and that both the larger and smaller agencies need to be at the table for this discussion; and capacity building grants to small agencies that have difficulty writing grants.

The question was raised whether certain communities, such as Chinatown, were being served. Staff will conduct an analysis on the distribution of services to Zone residents and a listing of agencies that have applied for and received funding.

On the administrative front, some Board members expressed the opinion that the BCI switchboard needs live coverage as they have experienced difficulties calling the office. Discussion ensued about the loss of administrative support staff. Mr. Vance reminded Board members that this was the subject of discussion in the Spring and should be further discussed in the Budget Committee.

Mr. Glavin asked whether the permanent jobs at Crosstown would be linked to other BCI Training Programs. Ms. Araujo affirmed that they would. Brother Kinney questioned the number of job available and suggested that we plan to count all available jobs.

3. PROCUREMENTS

Ms. Araujo presented as follows:

A. GED Services at South Bay

The vote was tabled at the September Board meeting because of questions about whether it constituted a failed procurement because only one proposal was received. Ms. Araujo distributed the opinion from EDIC, the procurement agency, regarding the definition of a failed procurement. With this definition, Ms. Araujo asked for approval to enter into contract with X-Cell and Mission Main Residents Services to provide GED services at Suffolk County House of Correction.

A discussion ensued regarding the vote. Some Board members cited a previous decision in which only one response was received to an RFP. Board members recalled that this past procurement was deemed failed because “only one” proposal was received, not that it was also not “responsive and responsible”.

The vote was tabled and staff will provide the Board with a copy of the procurement files on the earlier failed procurement.

B. English for Employment

Ms. Hilferty and Mr. Vance recused themselves. Mr. Foley chaired the meeting.

This vote was tabled in September. At the last meeting discussion had centered on



whether BCI could promote collaborations between organizations which: the respondents themselves did not propose; and had not been discussed with the respondents. This proposed vote is for two agencies to provide the services as documented in the responses.

Questions centered on what the strengths the previously proposed partnerships would bring to the delivery of services to Zone residents; and what the proposal rankings were.

The vote was tabled pending the provision of proposal ranking information.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 p.m.

A true record attest:

Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston

2201 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02119 ■ Phone 617-541-2670 ■ Fax 617-427-0747
A 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit Community Organization in Partnership with the City of Boston